

PRESS RELEASE

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE
4675 MISSOURI FLAT ROAD
PLACERVILLE CA 95667

Contact Information:
Serena Fuson
(530) 622-5081 ext. 7225
sfuson@eduhsd.k12.ca.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Significant Change in Student Masking Enforcement

Dear El Dorado Union High School District,

With the lifting of the statewide indoor mandate, and the improving conditions within El Dorado County, the El Dorado Union High School District is implementing a significant change in its face-covering enforcement protocols.

We are caught in the middle of a very difficult and progressively escalating situation where we acknowledge our obligation to comply with State and California Department of Public Health mandates and our actual ability to enforce those mandates.

Therefore we are changing our masking enforcement protocols. **The enforcement of masking will be done by educating students and asking them to mask but no further actions of exclusion from class will be taken.**

We will continue to do our best to comply with the law. Our school liability carriers all warn us that if we take explicit action to defy State guidance we will be held liable and accountable for any such decisions and in a very litigious society we have no legal protection. Our liability carriers will not be held accountable for our willful defiance of the California Department of Public Health.

We are very aware of the action that Roseville Joint Union High School District took to make masking optional. We have confirmed that their liability carrier will not cover them from any claims or damages since they took action in defiance of the California Department of Public Health and they have significant legal exposure that can jeopardize their district.

Moving forward students will not be physically removed from the classroom or receive a discipline consequence to prevent further exclusionary learning loss. CDPH guidance does not require exclusion, but legal precedent determined exclusion is lawful.

We ask for your continued support as we seek to do our best in this time when we are not granted any local control and Sacramento holds all of the decision making authority. As a school district the Board of Trustees does not have the legal decision making authority to change, overturn, or ignore State requirements. We know that masking guidance will definitely change in the weeks to come but our enforcement will change immediately.

The District will work diligently to call for measurable indicators that ensure there is a clear path to ending the mask mandate in schools as it is for adults in our county.